

THE DENSITY PROFILES OF MASSIVE, RELAXED GALAXY CLUSTERS. II. SEPARATING LUMINOUS AND DARK MATTER IN CLUSTER CORES

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ABSTRACT

We present stellar and dark matter (DM) density profiles for a sample of seven massive, relaxed galaxy clusters derived from strong and weak gravitational lensing and resolved stellar kinematic observations within the centrally located brightest cluster galaxies (BCGs). In Paper I of the series, we demonstrated that the *total* density profile derived from these data, which span three decades in radius, is consistent with numerical *DM-only* simulations at radii $\gtrsim 5$ –10 kpc, despite the significant contribution of stellar material in the core. Here, we decompose the inner mass profiles of these clusters into stellar and dark components. Parameterizing the DM density profile as a power law $\rho_{\text{DM}} \propto r^{-\beta}$ on small scales, we find a mean slope $\langle \beta \rangle = 0.50 \pm 0.10$ (random) $^{+0.14}_{-0.13}$ (systematic). Alternatively, cored Navarro–Frenk–White (NFW) profiles with $\langle \log r_{\text{core}}/\text{kpc} \rangle = 1.14 \pm 0.13$ $^{+0.14}_{-0.22}$ provide an equally good description. These density profiles are significantly shallower than canonical NFW models at radii $\lesssim 30$ kpc, comparable to the effective radii of the BCGs. The inner DM profile is correlated with the distribution of stars in the BCG, suggesting a connection between the inner halo and the assembly of stars in the central galaxy. The stellar mass-to-light ratio inferred from lensing and stellar dynamics is consistent with that inferred using stellar population synthesis models if a Salpeter initial mass function is adopted. We compare these results to theories describing the interaction between baryons and DM in cluster cores, including adiabatic contraction models and the possible effects of galaxy mergers and active galactic nucleus feedback, and evaluate possible signatures of alternative DM candidates.

Key words: dark matter – galaxies: elliptical and lenticular, cD – gravitational lensing: strong – gravitational lensing: weak – stars: kinematics and dynamics

Online-only material: color figure

1. INTRODUCTION

The internal structure of dark matter (DM) halos is a key prediction of the cold dark matter (CDM) paradigm. Numerical simulations following the detailed structure of collisionless CDM halos (e.g., Navarro et al. 1996; Ghigna et al. 2000; Diemand et al. 2005; Graham et al. 2006; Gao et al. 2012b) generically produce a central density cusp with $\rho_{\text{DM}} \sim r^{-1}$, characteristic of the Navarro–Frenk–White (NFW; Navarro et al. 1996) form, probably becoming slightly shallower on very small scales (e.g., Navarro et al. 2010). However, simulations are only beginning to make predictions for DM halos that include baryons, which could profoundly reshape their host halos. The structure of real DM halos thus contains important information about galaxy formation, but there is currently no theoretical consensus on the magnitude or even sign of these baryonic effects, particularly over a wide range in mass. Additionally, the microphysics of the unknown DM particle could become important in the densest regions, and the inner structure of DM halos may therefore provide valuable indirect clues to its nature (e.g., Spergel & Steinhardt 2000; Abazajian et al. 2001; Kaplinghat 2005; Peter et al. 2010).

Given the current uncertainty, observations are clearly in a good position to guide theoretical efforts. However, measurements of DM mass profiles are extremely challenging and are usually limited by confusion with baryons, the small dynamic range of the observations, and degeneracies that are inherent to individual mass probes (e.g., velocity anisotropy). Clusters of galaxies are promising locations to make progress. Accurate mass measures are available via many independent observa-

tional probes, especially gravitational lensing and X-ray emission (see Allen et al. 2011; Kneib & Natarajan 2011 for reviews, and references in Paper I). As we have shown (Newman et al. 2009, 2011), combining stellar kinematics with strong and weak gravitational lensing yields constraints over three decades in radius. This is comparable to the best simulations and is thus suitable for detailed comparison of the DM profile shape if the baryonic mass can be constrained. On small scales in relaxed clusters, the latter is dominated by stars in the central brightest cluster galaxy (BCG).

Sand et al. (2002, 2004) demonstrated the utility of combining resolved stellar kinematics with strong lensing to constrain two-component mass models, i.e., the BCG stars and DM halo separately (see Miralda-Escude 1995; Natarajan & Kneib 1996). Sand et al. (2004) studied six clusters and inferred a mean $\langle \beta \rangle = 0.52 \pm 0.05$, where $\rho_{\text{DM}} \propto r^{-\beta}$, significantly shallower than an NFW cusp having $\beta = 1$. They further noted a possible variation in β from cluster to cluster. Sand et al. (2008) improved on this analysis for two clusters (MS2137 and A383) by relaxing the assumption of axial symmetry in the lensing analysis, instead conducting a full two-dimensional study. They found that this did not alter their earlier findings, but noted that the inferred DM slope β is sensitive to the adopted scale radius r_s , which could only be constrained by additional mass probes at larger radii. This was implemented by Newman et al. (2009) in A611 through the addition of weak-lensing data. In Newman et al. (2011), we further extended the methodology in A383 by constraining the role of projection effects (i.e., line of sight (l.o.s.) ellipticity; Gavazzi 2005) via a comparison of X-ray and lensing data. We also presented a radially extended velocity dispersion profile

measured in a very deep spectroscopic observation. In both A611 and A383, we confirmed a shallow inner DM cusp with $\beta < 0.3$ (68% CL) and $\beta = 0.59^{+0.30}_{-0.35}$, respectively.⁴

In [Paper I](#) of the present series, we presented strong and weak lensing and stellar kinematic data for a sample of seven massive ($M_{200} = 0.4\text{--}2 \times 10^{15} M_{\odot}$), relaxed galaxy clusters at $z = 0.19\text{--}0.31$. This built upon our earlier papers by enlarging the sample of clusters with the highest-quality data: weak lensing measured using deep multi-color imaging, primarily from the Subaru telescope, extended stellar kinematic profiles in the BCG obtained primarily at the Keck telescopes, and multiply imaged sources located in *Hubble Space Telescope* (*HST*) imaging (25 strongly lensed sources in total, of which 21 have spectroscopic redshifts). We showed that the *total* inner density profile is remarkably well described by numerical simulations containing *only* CDM at radii $\gtrsim 5\text{--}10$ kpc, despite the significant contribution of stellar mass on these scales.

Here we extend [Paper I](#) by dissecting the stellar and DM contributions, using improved versions of the techniques developed in our earlier papers. We first show how the mass content of the BCGs can be constrained using information from the entire sample. We then isolate the DM density profiles and quantify their behavior on small scales. We show that the DM profiles become shallower than NFW models within ≈ 30 kpc, roughly the typical effective radius of the BCGs. Furthermore, the inner DM density profiles exhibit likely variation from cluster to cluster, and this variation is correlated with the properties of the BCG. Finally, we interpret our results in the context of the recent theoretical literature, focusing on the interactions between baryons and DM in galaxy clusters and the possibility that cores in galaxy clusters are imprints of DM particle physics.

Throughout this paper we adopt a Λ CDM cosmology with $\Omega_m = 0.3$, $\Omega_{\Lambda} = 0.7$, and $H_0 = 70 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$. Error bars and upper limits encompass the 68% confidence interval. When pairs of errors are quoted, they refer to the random and systematic components, respectively.

2. DATA AND MODELING

Whereas the *total* density profiles were studied in [Paper I](#), the goal of this paper is to use our two-component fits to separate the stellar and dark mass contributions in the cluster cores. All aspects of the data and modeling were discussed extensively in [Paper I](#) (Section 7). Here, we provide a summary of the features most relevant for this paper. First, the stellar mass in the BCG is modeled based on fits to the surface luminosity in *HST* imaging. A uniform stellar mass-to-light ratio Y_* is assumed within each BCG. As discussed in [Paper I](#) (Sections 5.1 and 9.3), this is justified by the mild or null color gradients observed over the relevant radial interval. Non-BCG cluster galaxies—relevant as perturbations in the strong lens model—are included via scaling relations based on the fundamental plane ([Paper I](#), Section 7).

Second, the cluster-scale smooth DM halo is parameterized using either a generalized NFW (gNFW) model

$$\rho_{\text{DM}}(r) = \frac{\rho_s}{(r/r_s)^\beta (1 + r/r_s)^{3-\beta}} \quad (1)$$

or a cored NFW (cNFW) model with

$$\rho_{\text{DM}}(r) = \frac{b\rho_s}{(1 + br/r_s)(1 + r/r_s)^2}. \quad (2)$$

Both models have the same large-scale behavior ($\rho_{\text{DM}} \propto r^{-3}$), but the gNFW model contains a central power-law cusp with $d \log \rho_{\text{DM}} / d \log r \rightarrow -\beta$ as $r \rightarrow 0$, while the cNFW model asymptotes to a constant-density core within a characteristic radius $r_{\text{core}} = r_s/b$. Both models contain the NFW profile in the limits $\beta = 1$ and $r_{\text{core}} \rightarrow 0$ and, therefore, allow us to explore deviations from canonical CDM halos in the central regions. Broad, uninformative priors are placed on the halo parameters (ρ_s , r_s , and β or b) and Y_* ([Paper I](#), Table 7).

Based on the close alignment between the optical centers of the BCGs and both the X-ray centroids (typically separated by ≈ 3 kpc, comparable to the measurement errors) and the lensing-derived centers of mass, we fix the center of the halo to that of the BCG ([Paper I](#), Sections 2 and 7.3). Furthermore, the mass estimates derived from lensing agree well with independent X-ray observations, which constrains the l.o.s. ellipticity of the halo to be mild in all clusters except A383 (see [Paper I](#), Section 8, and Newman et al. 2011).

We do not specifically distinguish the hot gas in the intracluster medium (ICM), which is thus implicitly included in the halo in our models. Since the distribution of the ICM is similar to that of the halo and comprises only a $\approx 10\%$ mass fraction (e.g., Allen et al. 2004), subtracting the ICM to isolate the DM has very little effect on the *slope* of the density profile ($\Delta d \log \rho / d \log r \lesssim 0.05$; Newman et al. 2009; Sommer-Larsen & Limousin 2010), which is the main focus of this paper.

These models are constrained by three data sets. First, the mass on scales of ≈ 100 kpc to 3 Mpc is constrained using gravitational shear (weak lensing) measured in deep, multi-color images primarily from the Subaru telescope. Second, the angular positions and redshifts of background galaxies that are strongly lensed by the clusters precisely constrain the mass from ≈ 20 to 100 kpc, varying from cluster to cluster. In total we located 25 multiply imaged sources, of which 21 have spectroscopic redshifts (7 were first presented in [Paper I](#)). Finally, the most unique aspect of our analysis is the inclusion of spatially resolved stellar kinematics within the BCGs. These measures are derived from long-slit spectra primarily obtained at the Keck telescopes. The stellar kinematic data typically extend to $R \approx 10\text{--}20$ kpc and display a very homogenous shape that rises with radius, indicating a rising total mass-to-light ratio as expected at the centers of massive clusters. As demonstrated in [Paper I](#) (Section 9), the mass models provide good fits to the full range of data.

For the purpose of distinguishing dark and stellar mass, the most important physical assumptions are that stellar mass follows light, as justified above, and that the DM halo is adequately described by a gNFW- or cNFW-like profile. The precise parametric form is not as critical as the presumption that the DM density turns over smoothly at small radii—either to a power-law cusp in the gNFW case or to a constant density in the cNFW models—without a sharp upturn on small scales. This is reasonable: by design these profiles describe pure CDM halos in the appropriate limits, and although the effects of adding baryons are uncertain, adiabatic contraction prescriptions (Gnedin et al. 2004, 2011) predict DM profiles that are well fit by gNFW models over the relevant range of radii when applied to the halos and BCGs representative of our sample. Due to the density and radial extent of observational constraints (extended stellar kinematic profiles, strongly lensed galaxies usually at multiple redshifts, weak lensing), we emphasize that we are able to consider quite general families of DM halos in each cluster.

⁴ In the present paper, we present a significantly revised measurement for A611; see Section 5.3.

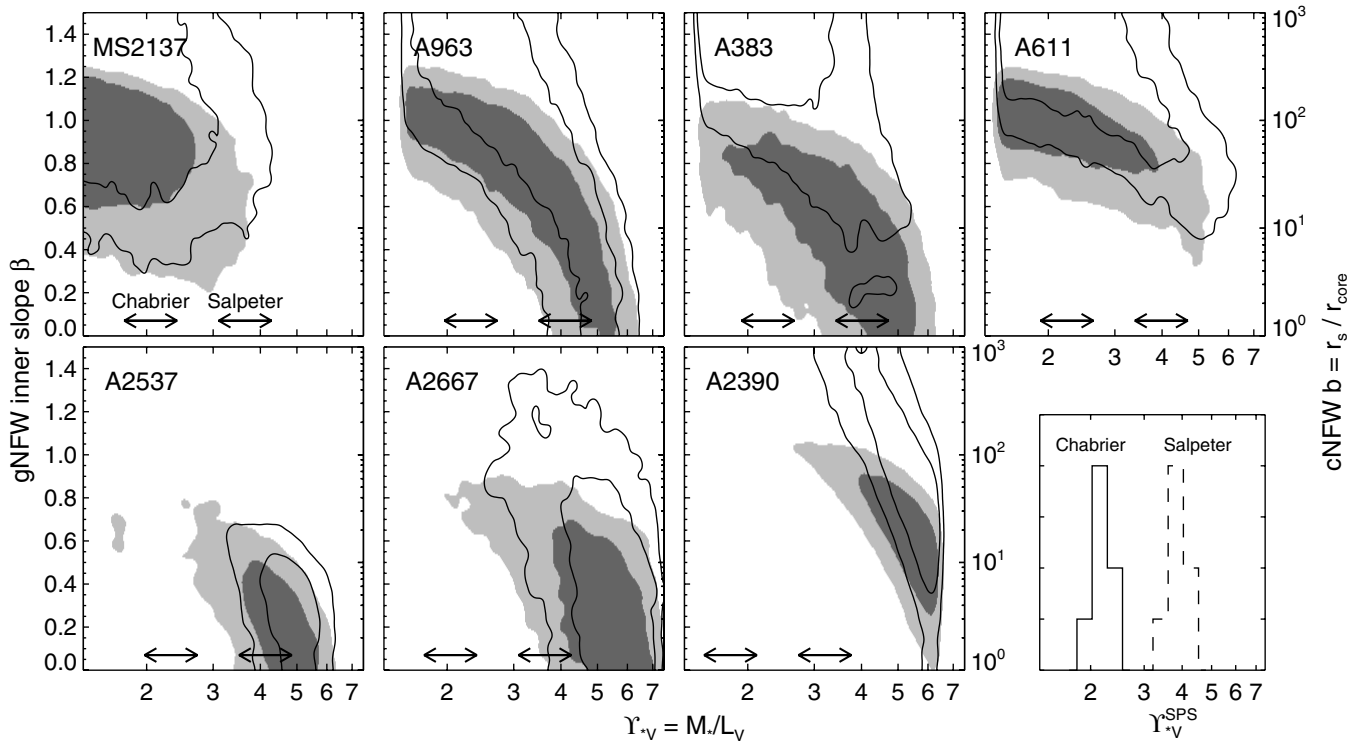


Figure 1. Degeneracy between Υ_{*v} and the DM inner density profile when the halo is parameterized with a gNFW (left axis, filled contours) or cNFW (right axis, lines) model. The 68% and 95% confidence regions are shown. The arrows at the bottom of each panel show estimates $\Upsilon_{*v}^{\text{SPS}}$ derived from SPS fits to the broadband colors of the BCGs, spanning the 68% confidence interval, when adopting Chabrier and Salpeter IMFs; the distribution of these is shown in the bottom right panel. The permitted range in Υ_{*v} is set proportionally to $\Upsilon_{*v}^{\text{SPS}}$ and therefore varies slightly from cluster to cluster (see Section 7 of Paper I).

3. SEPARATING LUMINOUS AND DARK MASS: THE ROLE OF THE STELLAR MASS-TO-LIGHT RATIO

In individual clusters, there is a degeneracy between the stellar mass-to-light ratio $\Upsilon_{*v} = M_*/L_v$ and the inner DM slope. This is illustrated in Figure 1, which shows results for the mass models summarized in Section 2 and derived in Paper I (Section 9). This degeneracy is expected, since stellar mass in the BCG can be traded against DM. Owing to the multiplicity of constraints described above, particularly kinematic measurements at small radii in the stellar-dominated regime, the model degeneracy is not complete, and each cluster does carry information on both Υ_* and β or b .

It is already evident in Figure 1 that most of the clusters in our sample prefer a DM inner slope that is shallower than an NFW profile (i.e., $\beta < 1$), consistent with our previous findings (Sand et al. 2002, 2004, 2008; Newman et al. 2009, 2011). However, it is also clear that the precision of the constraints on the inner slope could be increased if additional information regarding Υ_* is available. Indeed, most clusters are consistent with a wide range of Υ_* when viewed in isolation, due to the uncertainty arising from the degeneracy described above. Furthermore, the figure suggests a possible variation from cluster to cluster in the DM inner slope, but this conclusion may be contingent upon substantial variations in Υ_* as well. We do not have strong a priori expectations about the possible variation from cluster to cluster in the DM inner slope, particularly recalling the uncertain role of baryons in theoretical predictions. There are, however, several strong reasons to believe that the true physical variation in Υ_* within our sample is small.

First, Figure 1 shows estimates of the stellar mass-to-light ratio $\Upsilon_{*v}^{\text{SPS}}$ derived by fitting stellar population synthesis (SPS) models to the broadband colors of the BCGs (see Paper I,

Section 5.2). Currently, SPS models cannot predict absolute masses more accurately than a factor of $\simeq 2$, primarily due to the unknown stellar initial mass function (IMF), which we discuss further in Section 5.1. On the other hand, *relative* stellar masses are more robust, especially within a homogeneous galaxy population. As the bottom right panel of Figure 1 demonstrates, the range in $\Upsilon_{*v}^{\text{SPS}}$ within our sample at a fixed IMF is small. Assuming a Chabrier (2003) IMF, the median $\langle \Upsilon_{*v}^{\text{SPS}} \rangle = 2.2$; the full range is only 1.80–2.32, and the rms scatter is 9%.⁵

Second, the rms dispersion in the absolute luminosities L_v of the BCGs in our sample is only 0.1 dex. This small variation is consistent with previous studies of BCGs as “standard candles” with uniform luminosities and colors (e.g., Sandage 1972; Postman & Lauer 1995; Collins & Mann 1998; Bernardi et al. 2007). Finally, the environments of the BCGs are the same: by construction they are all central galaxies in massive clusters, and their central velocity dispersions are comparable. It would be very surprising if this uniformity in luminosity and $\Upsilon_{*v}^{\text{SPS}}$, which are thought to derive from a similar assembly history, were the result of a conspiracy that masks larger variations in stellar mass. Instead, based on these physical similarities, it is very likely that the BCGs in our sample have similar stellar masses and Υ_{*v} . As we discuss in Section 5.1, this is further supported by recent, independent studies.

With the well-motivated assumption that the BCGs in our sample have a similar Υ_{*v} , we can use the full sample of

⁵ Throughout, L_v and Υ_{*v} refer to the observed luminosity, including any internal reddening from dust within the BCG. If we removed the reddening to obtain the intrinsic L_v and Υ_{*v} of the stellar populations, their scatter would increase. (Reddening is indicated only in cool core clusters hosting some current star formation.) However, the SPS *stellar mass* estimates, which are significant for our analysis, are much more robust.

seven clusters to *jointly* constrain its value, thereby improving the precision and robustness of our measurements of the DM profile. Before embarking on this, we consider how to handle the small variations in Υ_{*V} that we do anticipate, despite the overall similarity. The sample spans a redshift range $z = 0.19\text{--}0.31$, so some mild passive evolution is expected. Additionally, the BCGs with the lowest $\Upsilon_{*V}^{\text{SPS}}$ estimates show optical emission lines and far-infrared photometry indicative of ongoing star formation (although it involves a small fraction of the stellar mass; see Paper I). These BCGs reside in the cool core clusters, consistent with earlier studies (Bildfell et al. 2008; Loubser et al. 2009; Sanderson et al. 2009).

Therefore, a more precise technique is to define Υ_* for each cluster *relative to the SPS measurement*:

$$\log \alpha_{\text{SPS}} = \log \Upsilon_{*V} / \Upsilon_{*V}^{\text{SPS}}. \quad (3)$$

We can then use the full cluster sample to constrain $(\log \alpha_{\text{SPS}})$, which parameterizes a common, systematic offset from photometrically derived stellar mass-to-light ratios. As described in Section 5.1, the most probable source for large systematic offsets is an IMF that differs from that assumed in the SPS models: in this case, that of Chabrier. However, our analysis does *not* depend on the physical origin of the offset, only that it is common among our BCGs. Since the variation in $\Upsilon_{*V}^{\text{SPS}}$ is small compared to the range of Υ_{*V} explored in our fits (25% versus a factor of 5.3), this approach is not radically different from assuming a common Υ_{*V} . However, it improves on that assumption by making use of SPS models to adjust for small differences in Υ_{*V} arising from age and dust, while making no assumption on the validity of their absolute mass scale.

3.1. Constraining the Stellar Mass Scale

Figure 2 shows the probability distribution for $\log \alpha_{\text{SPS}}$ derived in each cluster. The uncertainty in $\log \alpha_{\text{SPS}}$ arises from two sources: that in the Υ_{*V} derived from dynamics and lensing, and the uncertainty in $\Upsilon_{*V}^{\text{SPS}}$ arising from random photometric errors. In Paper I, we estimated the latter as $\sigma_{\text{SPS}} = 0.07$ dex. Thus, the probability distributions for $\log \alpha_{\text{SPS}}$ are derived by broadening those for $\log \Upsilon_{*V}$ by a Gaussian with a dispersion of σ_{SPS} .

We have argued that there are strong a priori reasons to expect that α_{SPS} is uniform across our sample of BCGs. Using the probability distributions in Figure 2, we can ask whether the lensing and kinematic data are indeed consistent with this assumption. One way to quantify this is to suppose that the true distribution of $\log \alpha_{\text{SPS}}$ is Gaussian and infer its intrinsic dispersion $\sigma_{\log \alpha}$. The formalism for inferring the probability distribution $P(\sigma_{\log \alpha})$ was discussed in Paper I (Section 9, and see Bolton et al. 2012). The preference for non-zero intrinsic scatter can then be assessed by

$$\Delta P = \sqrt{2 \ln [P(\sigma_{\log \alpha} = \sigma_{\text{peak}}) / P(\sigma_{\log \alpha} = 0)]}, \quad (4)$$

where σ_{peak} is the location of the maximum of $P(\sigma_{\log \alpha})$. For a Gaussian distribution, ΔP is the number of standard deviations from the mean. We find $\Delta P = 0.85$, i.e., a $<1\sigma$ preference for intrinsic scatter. Thus, the lensing and kinematic data are consistent with (although they alone cannot prove) our assumption that there is little intrinsic variation in α_{SPS} within our sample.

With the physically motivated assumption that α_{SPS} is the same for each BCG, we can constrain its common value simply

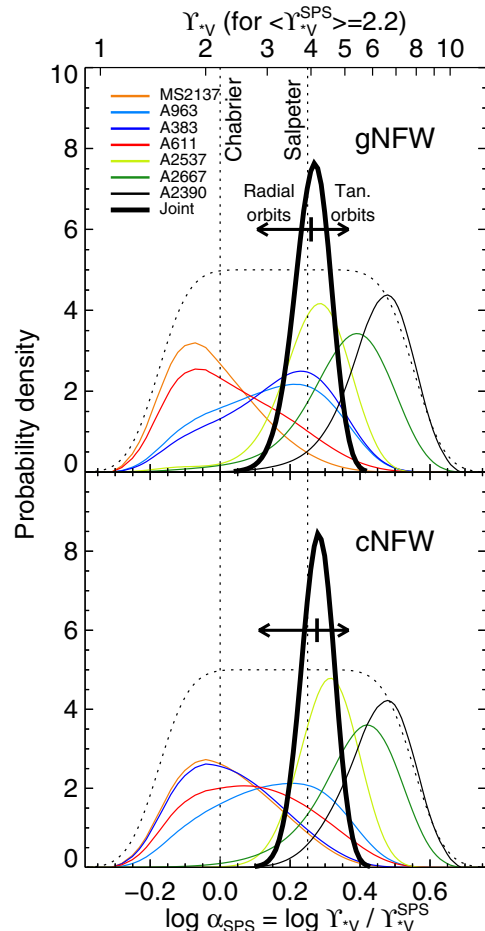


Figure 2. Probability densities for $\log \alpha_{\text{SPS}}$, which parameterizes the stellar mass-to-light ratio Υ_{*V} relative to SPS models (Equation (3)), are shown for each cluster (thin lines) and jointly for the entire sample (thick). The dotted curve shows the effective prior, composed of the flat prior on $\log \Upsilon_{*V}$ convolved with a Gaussian uncertainty on $\Upsilon_{*V}^{\text{SPS}}$ of $\sigma_{\text{SPS}} = 0.07$ dex. The arrows indicate the effect of adopting mildly anisotropic orbits with $\beta_{\text{aniso}} = \pm 0.2$.

by multiplying the seven independent probability distributions. The results are shown by the thick curves in Figure 2. Very similar values of $\log \alpha_{\text{SPS}} = 0.28 \pm 0.05$ and 0.26 ± 0.05 are derived using the gNFW and cNFW models, respectively, demonstrating that these results do not strongly depend on the exact halo model. Given the closeness of these results, in the following analysis we adopt $\log \alpha_{\text{SPS}} = 0.27 \pm 0.05$. Despite marginalizing over fairly general parameterizations of the DM profile, we are able to obtain informative results due to the high density of observational constraints and the sample size.

Taking the median $\langle \Upsilon_{*V}^{\text{SPS}} \rangle = 2.2$, we find that $\log \alpha_{\text{SPS}} = 0.27$ corresponds to $\Upsilon_{*V} = 4.1$. In Section 4.3, we describe sources of systematic uncertainty leading to a final estimate $\log \alpha_{\text{SPS}} = 0.27 \pm 0.05^{+0.10}_{-0.16}$. In Section 5.1, we discuss the physical implications of this result and compare to the recent literature on the stellar mass-to-light ratio and IMF in early-type galaxies.

4. THE INNER DARK MATTER DENSITY PROFILE

We now turn to the inner DM density profiles. In our earlier papers, we studied the inner DM density slope β by marginalizing over the uncertainty in Υ_* separately in each cluster. With the benefit of a larger sample with improved data, we have now combined constraints from seven clusters

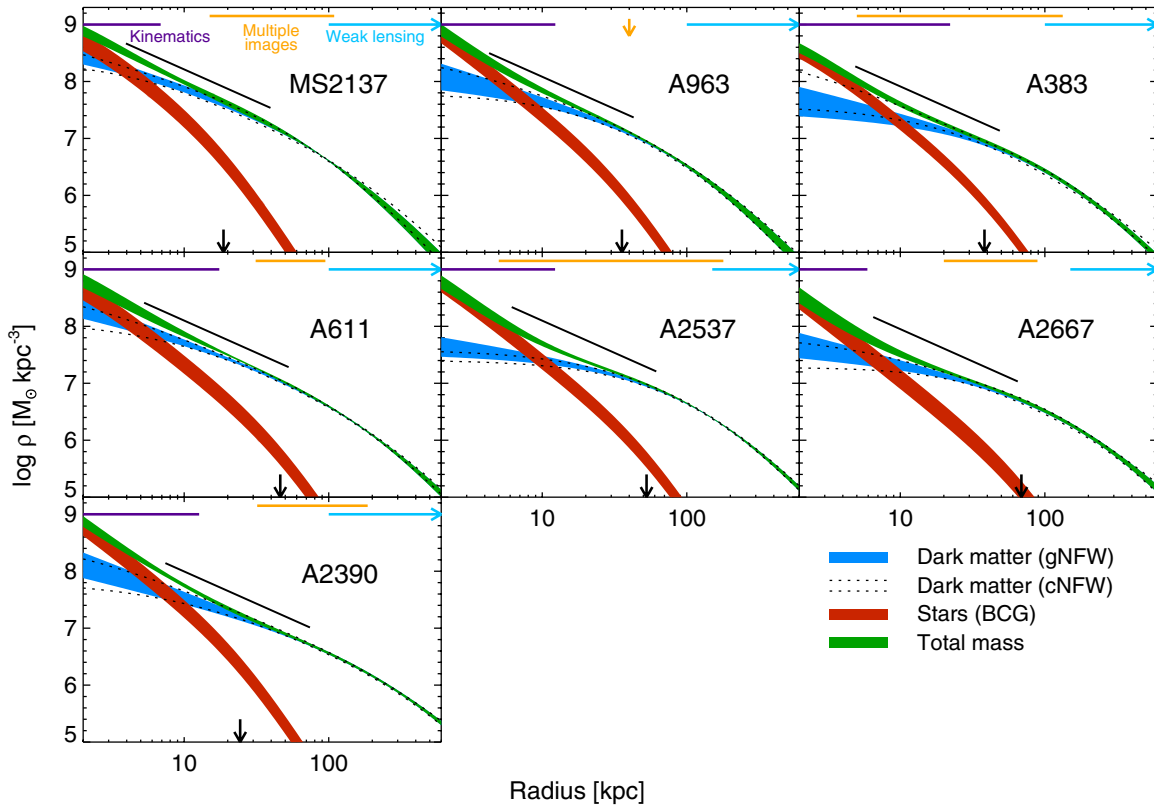


Figure 3. Radial density profiles for the DM halo, stars in the BCG, and their total in each cluster, adopting the joint constraint on $\log \alpha_{\text{IMF}}$ from Figure 2. The spatial extent of each data set is indicated at the top of each panel. The black line segment spans $r/r_{200} = 0.003$ – 0.03 and has the slope $\rho \propto r^{-1.13}$, which is the average of the clusters in the Phoenix DM-only simulations (Gao et al. 2012b) over the same interval (Paper I, Section 10). The width of the bands indicates the uncertainty, including both 1σ random uncertainties for isotropic models and a systematic component estimated by taking $\beta_{\text{aniso}} = \pm 0.2$ (Section 4.3). The arrows at the bottom of each panel indicate the three-dimensional half-light radius r_h of the BCG.

to arrive at a joint measurement of the stellar mass scale α_{SPS} (Section 3.1). Incorporating this information, we can now conduct our analysis in a more physically consistent way that recognizes the homogeneity of the BCGs, as well as further reducing the remaining degeneracies between dark and stellar mass.

Technically, we implement the joint constraint on $\log \alpha_{\text{SPS}}$ via importance sampling (e.g., Lewis & Bridle 2002), reweighting the Markov chain samples to effectively convert our flat prior on $\log \alpha_{\text{SPS}}$ to a Gaussian with mean $\langle \log \alpha_{\text{SPS}} \rangle = 0.27$ and dispersion $\sigma = (\sigma_\alpha^2 + \sigma_{\text{SPS}}^2)^{1/2} = 0.09$. Here $\sigma_\alpha = 0.05$ dex is the uncertainty in $\langle \log \alpha_{\text{SPS}} \rangle$, and $\sigma_{\text{SPS}} = 0.07$ dex is the random error in $\Upsilon_{*V}^{\text{SPS}}$ for each BCG. The latter accounts for the fact that α_{SPS} refers to a systematic offset from SPS-based mass estimates, but random errors due to photometric noise remain in each cluster.⁶

4.1. Dark and Stellar Mass Profiles

Figure 3 shows the resulting spherically averaged density profiles for the DM halo, BCG stars, and their sum. The results based on gNFW and cNFW models are again quite similar, showing that the choice of parameterization does not strongly affect the derived density profiles. We do not detect an overall preference for one model over the other:

the ratio of the total Bayesian evidence is consistent with unity.⁷

The black line segment in each panel spans $r/r_{200} = 0.003$ – 0.03 , which is the interval over which the total density slope γ_{tot} was defined in Paper I. Its slope $r^{-1.13}$ is the average measured in CDM-only cluster simulations from the Phoenix project (Gao et al. 2012b). As quantified in Paper I, the stars and DM sum to produce a slope very close to CDM-only simulations over this interval.

Now we can see that both stars and DM contribute significantly to the mass in this regime: stars dominate the density in the inner radius, while virtually all the mass is DM at the outer radius. This demonstrates a tight coordination between the inner DM profile and the distribution of stars: the NFW-like density slope is not a property of the DM halo or the BCG alone, but of their sum. As noted in Paper I, at yet smaller radii $r \lesssim 5$ – 10 kpc where stars are dominant—well within the mean effective radius $\langle R_e \rangle = 30$ kpc—the total density profile generally steepens.

As expected, if the total density is NFW-like, then the DM profiles become shallower only on scales where the BCG contributes significantly, roughly within R_e . As we describe in Section 5, our results thus do not conflict with other studies that claim the DM alone follows an NFW profile but are confined to $r \gtrsim R_e$. The stellar mass density in our models reaches

⁶ This estimate of σ_{SPS} may be conservative, given that the dispersion in the $\Upsilon_{*V}^{\text{SPS}}$ measurements among the BCGs is smaller, and $\chi^2/\text{dof} \leq 1$ in the SPS model fits. Thus, in practice, we are likely allowing for some mild intrinsic variation in α_{SPS} .

⁷ In Paper I, we found that the evidence ratio mildly favored the cNFW models when taking a uniform prior on $\log \alpha_{\text{SPS}}$. When the joint constraint derived in this paper is taken as a prior, the evidence ratio is consistent with unity ($\ln E_{\text{gNFW}}/E_{\text{cNFW}} = -0.8 \pm 3.2$).

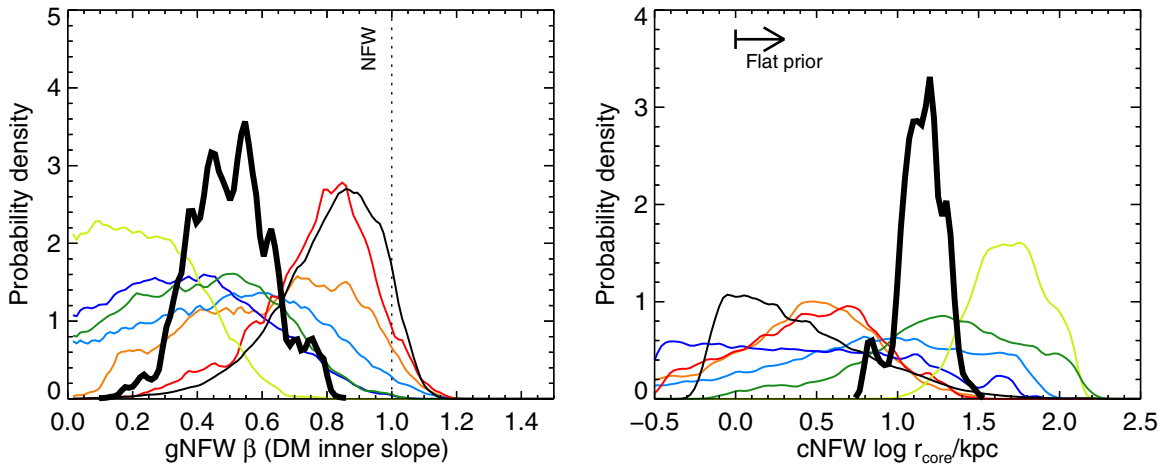


Figure 4. Marginalized posterior probability densities for the gNFW inner slope β (left) and the cNFW core radius (right). Thick black lines show joint constraints on the mean. The colors follow Figure 2. Each curve is normalized to integrate to unity. Our adopted priors (Paper I, Table 7) are flat in $\log r_s$ and b and therefore not in $\log r_{\text{core}} = \log r_s/b$ over the whole plotted range. The arrow in the right panel indicates the region over which the effective prior on $\log r_{\text{core}}$ is flat.

Table 1
Parameters Describing the Inner DM Profile

Cluster	β (gNFW)	$\log r_{\text{core}}/\text{kpc}$ (cNFW)
MS2137	$0.65^{+0.23}_{-0.30}$	$0.45^{+0.38}_{-0.48}$
A963	$0.50^{+0.27}_{-0.30}$	$0.87^{+0.61}_{-0.71}$
A383	$0.37^{+0.25}_{-0.23}$	$0.37^{+0.72}_{-0.64}$
A611	$0.79^{+0.14}_{-0.19}$	$0.47^{+0.39}_{-0.50}$
A2537	$0.23^{+0.18}_{-0.16}$	$1.67^{+0.24}_{-0.23}$
A2667	$0.42^{+0.23}_{-0.25}$	$1.29^{+0.49}_{-0.49}$
A2390	$0.82^{+0.13}_{-0.18}$	$0.30^{+0.53}_{-0.34}$
Ensemble Average		
All clusters	0.50 ± 0.13	1.14 ± 0.13
$\beta_{\text{aniso}} = +0.2$	$0.38^{+0.09}_{-0.07}$	$1.11^{+0.14}_{-0.10}$
$\beta_{\text{aniso}} = -0.2$	$0.64^{+0.05}_{-0.09}$	$0.96^{+0.24}_{-0.11}$
Separate α_{SPS}	0.62 ± 0.14	$1.09^{+0.12}_{-0.21}$

Notes. Median parameters are shown, obtained after weighting samples to incorporate our joint constraint on α_{SPS} , as described in the text. Error bars encompass the 16–84th percentiles and account for random uncertainties only; see Section 4.3 for a discussion of systematic errors. Results are shown for individual clusters (top) and for the ensemble mean (bottom), including for several alternative assumptions described in Section 4.3.

that of the DM at a median radius of $\langle r \rangle = 7$ kpc. In terms of enclosed mass, equality occurs at $\langle r \rangle = 12$ kpc. Within 5 kpc the median DM fraction is $\langle f_{\text{DM}} \rangle = 25\%$, similar to massive field ellipticals (e.g., Auger et al. 2010a), but within their three-dimensional half-light radii r_h the BCGs are far more DM-dominated: $\langle f_{\text{DM}} \rangle = 80\%$.

4.2. Inner DM Density Slopes and Core Radii

Figure 4 shows the probability distributions for β (gNFW) and r_{core} (cNFW) obtained by marginalizing over the other parameters, again weighting the samples to incorporate our joint constraint on α_{SPS} . Results for the individual clusters are listed in Table 1. Every cluster prefers $\beta < 1$, i.e., an inner slope shallower than an NFW model. Thick black lines show constraints on the mean: $\langle \beta \rangle = 0.50 \pm 0.13$ and $\langle \log r_{\text{core}}/\text{kpc} \rangle = 1.14 \pm 0.13$; the method for deriving these

is outlined in the Appendix. We note that while the typical $r_{\text{core}} \approx 14$ kpc is small, the cNFW profile turns over rather slowly at small radii. Thus, while r_{core} is the radius where the density falls to half of the corresponding NFW profile, significant deviations extend to $r \simeq (3\text{--}4)r_{\text{core}}$.

We can also ask whether there is evidence for intrinsic variation in the inner DM profiles. This can be quantified by assuming that the parent distributions of β and $\log r_{\text{core}}$ are Gaussian, and using the method described in Section 3.1 to infer its dispersion. We find some evidence for intrinsic scatter with $\sigma_\beta = 0.22^{+0.15}_{-0.11}$ and $\sigma_{\log r_{\text{core}}} = 0.57^{+0.33}_{-0.21}$. Its statistical significance can be assessed with the ΔP statistic (Equation (4)): we derive $\Delta P = 1.5$ and 2.6 for β and $\log r_{\text{core}}$, respectively. This indicates a $\simeq 2\sigma$ preference for the presence of intrinsic scatter in the inner DM profile shape. While we have focused on relaxed clusters, we expect that this variation would increase if a broader sample of clusters that includes recent mergers were considered.

A possible physical origin of this scatter is illustrated in Figure 5. The gray points in the top panel show the total density slope γ_{tot} . As described in Paper I, these show mild scatter around the mean slope measured in CDM-only simulations (dashed line; Gao et al. 2012b) over the same radial interval ($r/r_{200} = 0.003\text{--}0.03$). Here we see signs of a correlation with the size of the BCG, with more extended BCGs corresponding to shallower total slopes. The effect on the DM slope (colored points) appears stronger: larger BCGs are hosted by clusters with shallower DM slopes β , or equivalently larger core radii r_{core} (bottom panel). Such a correlation is necessary for the dark and stellar mass to combine to a similar total density profile. The significance can be assessed using the Spearman rank correlation test. We find a probabilities $P_0 = 0.18$ and 0.07 of obtaining an equally strong correlation between R_e and β or r_{core} , respectively, in the null hypothesis of uncorrelated data (see caption to Figure 5).

Figure 5 suggests that the DM profile in the cluster core is connected to the build-up of stars in the BCG. We return to this point in Section 6 and discuss the physical scenarios that may explain this. Although the correlations with R_e are most convincing, they are not unique: we find correlations between β or r_{core} and the stellar mass or luminosity with nearly equal statistical significance. There is no sign of a correlation with the

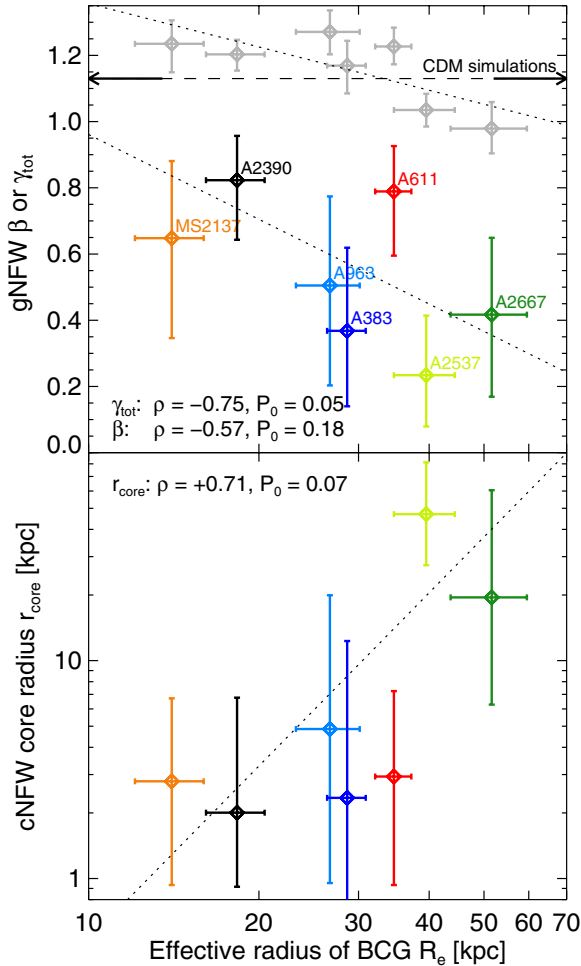


Figure 5. Correlation between the size of the BCG and the inner DM profile. Top: gray points show the total density slope γ_{tot} presented in Paper I; this is measured over $r/r_{200} = 0.003\text{--}0.03$ and is not an asymptotic slope. The dashed horizontal line shows the mean slope measured in CDM-only cluster simulations (Gao et al. 2012b) over the same interval. Colored points denote the asymptotic DM density slope β measured in the gNFW models. The dotted lines show least-squares linear fits. The Spearman rank correlation coefficient ρ and the corresponding two-sided P_0 -value are listed. Bottom: the core radii r_{core} of the cNFW models are shown, again indicating a correlation with R_e . (A color version of this figure is available in the online journal.)

virial mass M_{200} ($\rho = 0.11$ and 0.04 for the gNFW and cNFW models; see caption to Figure 5).⁸

We emphasize that it is preferable to compare directly to the physical density profiles (Figure 3) when possible, rather than only to the marginalized distributions for β . These results do not imply, for example, that a CDM density profile should be modified simply by maintaining the same r_s and changing $\beta = 1$ to $\beta = 0.5$. Rather, r_s also shifts in our fits such that significant changes in ρ_{DM} are kept within $r \lesssim 30$ kpc. This degeneracy is simply a result of the gNFW parameterization.

4.3. Systematic Uncertainties

A full discussion of the systematic uncertainties affecting our analysis was presented in Paper I, Section 9.3 (see also Sand et al. 2004). In the following, we review the most important

effects and estimate their impact on α_{SPS} and the inner DM halo parameters β and b .

One of the main sources of systematic uncertainty is our use of spherical dynamical models based on isotropic velocity dispersion tensors. As discussed in Paper I (Section 9.3), this is a good approximation for luminous, non-rotating giant ellipticals in their central regions (e.g., Gerhard et al. 2001; Cappellari et al. 2007). Nonetheless, individual galaxies can exhibit mild anisotropy with $|\beta_{\text{aniso}}| = |1 - \sigma_\theta^2/\sigma_r^2| \approx 0.2$, and the population as a whole also may be slightly radially biased. To estimate the impact that this has on our analysis, we repeated the dynamical analysis using a constant anisotropy parameter $\beta_{\text{aniso}} = \pm 0.2$. The arrows in Figure 2 show that individual clusters may shift by $\Delta \log \Upsilon_* = -0.16$ ($\beta_{\text{aniso}} = +0.2$) or $\Delta \log \Upsilon_* = +0.10$ ($\beta_{\text{aniso}} = -0.2$). Since this bias may be correlated among the BCGs, we consider these as systematic uncertainties in the mean: $\langle \log \alpha_{\text{SPS}} \rangle = 0.27 \pm 0.05^{+0.10}_{-0.16}$. We note that the effects of anisotropy are larger here than for studies of field elliptical lenses (e.g., Auger et al. 2010b), since the latter do not resolve kinematics well within R_e where the impact of anisotropy on the l.o.s. velocity dispersion is largest.

Uncertainties in the orbital distribution have a milder effect on the parameters describing inner DM profile. If we adopt the same prior in $\langle \log \alpha_{\text{SPS}} \rangle$, taking $\beta_{\text{aniso}} = \pm 0.2$ leads to systematic shifts of $\Delta(\beta) = \pm 0.13$ and $\Delta(\log r_{\text{core}}) \approx -0.18$ (Table 1). If we instead shift the prior on $\langle \log \alpha_{\text{SPS}} \rangle$ to match the results obtained with the corresponding β_{aniso} , we find $\Delta(\beta) = +0.11, -0.02$ and $\Delta(\log r_{\text{core}}) = -0.21, +0.08$. Based on these results, we estimate systematic uncertainties of $\Delta(\beta) = \pm 0.13$ and $\Delta(\log r_{\text{core}}) = -0.2, +0.1$ due to the orbital anisotropy.

We note that the clusters with the lowest inferred α_{SPS} in Figure 2 (MS2137 and A611) are those with the highest halo concentration parameters (Paper I, Section 10). These clusters have NFW-like *total* density profiles down to unusually small radii, with very weak steeping on small scales. In view of the similarity of α_{SPS} among the other five clusters and the agreement with independent results discussed in Section 5.1, a likely explanation is that some of the stellar mass is effectively counted in the halo when Υ_* is allowed to vary freely from cluster to cluster. Nevertheless, omitting MS2137 and A611 would shift $\langle \log \alpha_{\text{SPS}} \rangle$ by only $+0.02$. In this respect our results are encouragingly robust. This highlights the utility of the ensemble of clusters as a robust constraint on Υ_* .

The l.o.s. ellipticity in the cluster halo can complicate the coupling of the lensing and dynamical mass measurements, since lensing measures the mass contained in cylinders, while dynamical and X-ray measurements nearly measure the spherically averaged mass distribution. The close agreement between lensing- and X-ray-based mass measurements shows that this is not a major effect in our sample; the only exception is A383, in which the l.o.s. shape is explicitly accounted for in our analysis (Paper I, Section 8.1, and Newman et al. 2011). Specifically, the mean ratio of spherical mass measures $\langle M_X/M_{\text{lens}} \rangle = 1.1$ at $r \simeq 60$ kpc, the typical Einstein radius in our sample (Paper I, Section 8). This could be explained by a mean elongation of the cluster halos along the l.o.s. with ellipticity $\langle q - 1 \rangle \approx 0.1\text{--}0.2$ (although, as described in Paper I, $\langle M_X/M_{\text{lens}} \rangle$ and thus $\langle q \rangle$ are actually consistent with unity within the systematic uncertainties). Based on our study of A383, we estimate that a mean l.o.s. ellipticity of this magnitude would cause systematic shifts of $\Delta(\beta) \approx 0.06$ and $\Delta(\log r_{\text{core}}) \approx -0.1$.

Combining the effects of l.o.s. ellipticity and orbital anisotropy in quadrature, we arrive at final measurements

⁸ Interestingly, the reverse seems to hold for γ_{tot} : there is no sign of a correlation with the stellar mass or luminosity, but a possible correlation with M_{200} ($\rho = -0.68$, $P_0 = 0.09$). The latter may simply be because the radial range over which γ_{tot} is measured is proportional to r_{200} .

$\langle\beta\rangle = 0.50 \pm 0.13^{+0.14}_{-0.13}$ and $\langle\log r_{\text{core}}\rangle = 1.14 \pm 0.13^{+0.14}_{-0.22}$ including random and systematic error estimates. Naturally, variations in orbital anisotropy or i.o.s. ellipticity could cause larger shifts on a cluster-by-cluster basis. Such effects could decrease the intrinsic scatter in β and r_{core} that we infer, but they would have to be correlated with the size or mass of the BCG (Figure 5). While we have argued that our method of deriving a common value of α_{SPS} is superior, we note that marginalizing over Υ_{*V} separately in each cluster, as in our earlier papers, would shift the mean $\langle\beta\rangle$ by $<1\sigma$ (see “Separate α_{SPS} ” Table 1).

In Paper I, we evaluated the effect of varying the positional uncertainty σ_{pos} in the strong-lensing analysis. In the context of this paper, we find a mean shift of $\Delta\beta = -0.1$ when taking $\sigma_{\text{pos}} = 0''.3$ rather than our fiducial $\sigma_{\text{pos}} = 0''.5$, while $\Delta\beta = +0.1$ when $\sigma_{\text{pos}} = 1''.0$ (although this choice is strongly disfavored by the Bayesian evidence; see Section 7.2 of Paper I). There is no significant dependence of $\log \alpha_{\text{SPS}}$ on σ_{pos} .

Finally, we recall evidence presented in Paper I that A2537 is a possible i.o.s. merger. Such an alignment could produce a spuriously shallow DM profile in a lensing analysis, and A2537 indeed has the shallowest slope in our sample. However, Figure 5 provides another explanation: A2537 has the second-largest BCG in the sample. Thus, it does not appear that our results for A2537 are exceptional. Nevertheless, recognizing its unique nature in our sample, we note that excluding A2537 yields $\langle\beta\rangle = 0.69^{+0.10}_{-0.14}$ and $\log r_{\text{core}} = 0.59^{+0.26}_{-0.37}$, which does not change our main conclusions.

5. COMPARISON TO PREVIOUS RESULTS

5.1. Stellar Mass-to-light Ratio

These results on the inner DM profile are informed by the common stellar mass normalization that we infer, so it is important to compare this result to other measurements to assess its reliability (see also Cappellari et al. 2012b for a recent review). As shown in Section 3.1, we find $\log \alpha_{\text{SPS}} = 0.27 \pm 0.05$ for isotropic orbits, with a corresponding $\Upsilon_{*V} = 4.1 \pm 0.5$ and $\Upsilon_{*B} = 5.3 \pm 0.6$ at the median $\Upsilon_{*V}^{\text{SPS}}$ and $\Upsilon_{*B}^{\text{SPS}}$. When comparing mass-to-light ratios at different redshifts, it is essential to account for luminosity evolution. Where necessary, we evolve samples as $d \log \Upsilon_{*V} / dz = -0.64$ (Treu et al. 2001). We note that the ≈ 0.05 dex systematic uncertainty in $\Upsilon_{*V}^{\text{SPS}}$ (Paper I, Section 5.2) is relevant only for the interpretation of Υ_{*V} in terms of stellar populations, but it does *not* affect the stellar mass and so has no effect on the derived mass profiles.

Discussion of Υ_* is often tied to the IMF. This is because the unknown IMF is the dominant source of uncertainty in the absolute mass scale for SPS models, especially for old galaxies (e.g., Bell & de Jong 2001; Bundy et al. 2005; Cappellari et al. 2006; Auger et al. 2009; Grillo et al. 2009; Stott et al. 2010). If interpreted as a difference in IMF, our measured α_{SPS} indicates a normalization consistent with that of the Salpeter (1955) IMF, which has $\log M_{*,\text{Salp}} / M_{*,\text{Chab}} = 0.25$ when extended over $0.1\text{--}100 M_{\odot}$.

Several other studies have used lensing and stellar dynamics to probe massive field and group ellipticals. Auger et al. (2010b) study the SLACS samples of early-type lenses using strong and weak lensing and stellar kinematics (see also Gavazzi et al. 2007; Treu et al. 2010). Assuming an NFW halo, they infer $\log \alpha_{\text{SPS}} = 0.28 \pm 0.03$ at $M_* = 10^{11} M_{\odot}$.⁹ Assuming that an adiabatically

contracted halo lowers this value by $0.11\text{--}0.14$, i.e., still heavier than a Chabrier IMF. They infer an intrinsic scatter of <0.09 dex in $\log \alpha_{\text{SPS}}$ within their sample of $\sigma \gtrsim 200 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ lenses (Treu et al. 2010). Lagattuta et al. (2010) study ellipticals at slightly higher redshift using strong and weak lensing. Evolving their Υ_* from $\langle z \rangle \approx 0.6$ to our $\langle z \rangle = 0.25$ yields $\Upsilon_{*V} = 4.7 \pm 0.7$, consistent with our results. Both of these works assume an NFW halo and a mass–concentration relation that follows theoretical expectations (i.e., a one-parameter halo). Our models include much more general halos, and the BCGs are much more DM-dominated. Thus, the uncertainty in Υ_* on an object-by-object basis is larger; nonetheless, the ensemble averages agree well. Sonnenfeld et al. (2012) studied a rare early-type lens that presents two Einstein rings, which allowed them also to relax assumptions on the DM profile. They find $\alpha_{\text{SPS}} = 0.30 \pm 0.09$ in our notation (see also Spiniello et al. 2011). Zitrin & Broadhurst (2009) took advantage of the unusually flat surface density profile in the lensing cluster MACS J1149.5+2223 ($z = 0.544$), which offers a clean subtraction of the dark halo to isolate the mass of the BCG. They estimate $\Upsilon_{*B} \approx 4.5 \pm 1$ ($\approx 7 \pm 2$ if evolved to our $\langle z \rangle = 0.25$).

Other studies have used integral field spectroscopy to construct detailed dynamical models of local ellipticals. Cappellari et al. (2012a, 2012b, 2012c) discuss the ATLAS^{3D} sample of early-type galaxies. At the highest velocity dispersions present, they infer $\log \alpha_{\text{SPS}} = 0.25$ (Cappellari et al. 2012b, Figure 9, converted to our definition of α_{SPS}). Interestingly, there appears to be little or no intrinsic scatter in α_{SPS} at $\sigma_e \gtrsim 250 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, nearly at the lower limit of our BCGs, although only a handful of such objects are present in their sample. Along with the tightness of the $M/L - \sigma_e$ relation at high σ_e (Cappellari et al. 2012c), this supports our claim that α_{SPS} should be nearly constant within our sample of BCGs. McConnell et al. (2011) studied the BCG of A2162 using long-slit kinematics and integral field spectroscopy with adaptive optics, finding $\Upsilon_{*R} = 4.6^{+0.3}_{-0.7}$ in their “maximum halo” solution. For comparison, our result, evolved to $z = 0$, is $\Upsilon_{*R} = 4.1 \pm 0.5$.

Finally, the IMF in early-type galaxies has recently been studied using detailed spectral synthesis models that take advantage of surface gravity-sensitive stellar absorption lines. In very high quality spectra, these constrain the abundance of low-mass dwarfs that contribute much to the stellar mass but very little to the integrated light. Although the degree of scatter remains unclear, these studies suggest that a Salpeter-like IMF—or possibly even heavier—is typical in high-dispersion ellipticals (van Dokkum & Conroy 2010, 2012; Conroy & van Dokkum 2012; Smith et al. 2012).

In summary, our measurements are consistent with a variety of other recent works indicating a heavy (Salpeter-like) Υ_* in massive early-type galaxies. Encouragingly, studies based on completely independent techniques are beginning to converge on the same results.

5.2. The Total Inner Density Slope

When comparing results on the inner density profiles of clusters, it is essential to understand the *radial range* that is being fit and whether the *total* density profile or that of the *dark matter* is being considered. This distinction is most important at radii $\lesssim 30$ kpc where the BCG contributes noticeably to the total mass. In Paper I we showed that the *total* density profiles in our sample are consistent with CDM-only simulations down to $r \approx 5\text{--}10$ kpc. The mean total density slope $\langle\gamma_{\text{tot}}\rangle = 1.16 \pm 0.05^{+0.05}_{-0.07}$ was precisely measured over $r/r_{200} = 0.003\text{--}0.03$ and found to

⁹ Their α_{IMF} is defined relative to a Salpeter IMF and so differs from our definition by 0.25 dex.

be consistent with collisionless CDM-only simulations, which have $\langle\gamma_{\text{tot}}\rangle = 1.13$ (Paper I, Section 9). Note that γ_{tot} is measured over a specific radial interval and is distinct from the asymptotic inner slopes of gNFW models, which we denote β_{tot} and β_{DM} in the following.

Most observational studies have focused on the total density profile. Umetsu et al. (2011) stacked density profiles for four clusters with high-quality lensing data and found that $\beta_{\text{tot}} = 0.89^{+0.27}_{-0.39}$, with the inner 40 kpc/h excluded from their fit. Morandi et al. (2011) measured $\beta_{\text{tot}} = 0.90 \pm 0.05$ in A1689, excluding the inner 30 kpc, and Coe et al. (2010) also found that the total mass distribution is NFW-like. Using imaging from the CLASH survey (Postman et al. 2012), Umetsu et al. (2012) and Zitrin et al. (2011) derived $\beta_{\text{tot}} = 0.96^{+0.31}_{-0.49}$ (their “method 7”) and $\beta_{\text{tot}} = 1.08 \pm 0.07$ in MACS J1206.2–0847 and A383, respectively. These lensing results are consistent with our claims that the *total* density profile is NFW-like at $r \gtrsim 5\text{--}10$ kpc.

Morandi & Limousin (2012) use lensing and X-ray data to derive a total slope $\beta_{\text{tot}} = 1.02 \pm 0.06$ in A383 and contrast this with our earlier finding that $\beta_{\text{DM}} = 0.59^{+0.30}_{-0.35}$ in the same cluster (Newman et al. 2011).¹⁰ These results are not inconsistent. Figure 3 shows that the DM profile we infer in A383 becomes shallower than an NFW model only at $r \lesssim 30$ kpc. These scales are excluded by Morandi & Limousin in their fits precisely because of the uncertainty in the BCG stellar mass that we have addressed using stellar kinematics. At $r \gtrsim 30$ kpc the total density profile in our models—nearly equal to that of the DM—is NFW-like.

5.3. The Dark Matter Inner Density Slope

Among the main scientific goals of studying the inner regions of clusters are testing predictions of the collisionless CDM paradigm and understanding the formation of the central galaxy and its impact on the DM halo. Thus, although precise and robust measurements of the total density profile are very valuable, for these goals it is clearly important to understand how much of this mass is DM and how much is baryonic. Over the past decade, we have been developing tools to perform this separation (Sand et al. 2002, 2004, 2008; Newman et al. 2009, 2011). The history of this progress was described in Section 1.

Sand et al. (2004) measured a mean $\langle\beta_{\text{tot}}\rangle = 0.52 \pm 0.05$ in a sample of six clusters. We have improved on this earlier work in many ways: through the use of elliptical lens models, the addition of weak-lensing data, the incorporation of multiple strongly lensed sources (usually located at different redshifts), the comparison with X-ray results to quantify I.o.s effects, the deeper spectroscopic observations of the BCGs that have yielded more precise and radially extended kinematic profiles, and through joint constraints on the stellar mass scale α_{SPS} . This work has essentially confirmed our initial findings, with the present value $\langle\beta_{\text{DM}}\rangle = 0.50 \pm 0.10^{+0.14}_{-0.13}$ consistent with Sand et al. (2004). (The smaller error bars quoted in the latter work are due to the more restrictive model assumptions, particularly a fixed scale radius r_s .)

Four of the clusters in the present sample have been previously studied in our earlier papers. In general our results for MS2137 and A963 are consistent with Sand et al. (2004, 2008) within their uncertainties, although the present measurements supercede earlier ones due to the improvements described above. Our analysis of A383 is consistent with Newman et al.

(2011). The results presented here for A611, on the other hand, are significantly different from Newman et al. (2009): we find $\beta = 0.79^{+0.14}_{-0.19}$, rather than $\beta < 0.3$ (68% confidence). This is attributable to two changes in the data: a revised spectroscopic redshift for a multiply imaged galaxy and improved stellar kinematic measurements (see Sections 4.4 and 6.4 in Paper I).

As we have shown, it is difficult to separate the BCG and DM profiles with lensing alone due to the low density (or lack) of constraints near the center. Only in clusters with exceptional lensing configurations is this feasible. An interesting such case is A1703, which presents an unusual quad image close to the BCG. Limousin et al. (2008) and Richard et al. (2009) performed a two-component fit—a gNFW halo and BCG stars following light, as in this work—and derive $\beta_{\text{DM}} = 0.92^{+0.05}_{-0.04}$. (See Oguri et al. 2009 for a consistent result with a much larger error bar.) This may not be inconsistent with our findings, since two clusters in our sample prefer a similar slope (A611 and A2390, see Figure 4), and there may be scatter from cluster to cluster.¹¹ Zitrin et al. (2010) found that the *total* density profile in A1703 is well fit by an NFW model.

X-ray studies of two nearby clusters (A2589 and A2029) have also shown that the total density follows an NFW profile down to $\approx 0.002\text{--}0.01 r_{\text{vir}}$ (Lewis et al. 2003; Zappacosta et al. 2006). The latter authors noted that for any reasonable Y_* , this implies a shallower DM profile in the central regions where the stellar mass is significant. Their finding agrees well with our work, which has quantified the split between stars and DM. Schmidt & Allen (2007) studied a large sample of distant X-ray clusters. By assuming a typical BCG stellar mass, they estimated $\langle\beta_{\text{DM}}\rangle = 0.88 \pm 0.29$ (95% CL). Often the inner ≈ 40 kpc must be excluded from their analysis, making a direct comparison difficult.

6. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

By combining strong lensing, weak lensing, and stellar kinematic observations that extend from ≈ 3 kpc to beyond the virial radius, thus spanning the baryon- to DM-dominated regimes, we constrained flexible, physically motivated models of the dark and stellar mass distributions in seven massive, relaxed galaxy clusters. As discussed extensively in Paper I, the density profiles of stars and DM sum to produce a slope close to *CDM-only* simulations, at least outside the very central $\approx 5\text{--}10$ kpc where stars strongly dominate the mass. In this paper, we isolated the dark and stellar density profiles to quantify the behavior of the DM on small scales, finding a mean asymptotic inner power-law slope of $\langle\beta\rangle = 0.50 \pm 0.13^{+0.14}_{-0.13}$, or equivalently a mean DM core radius $\langle\log r_{\text{core}}\rangle = 1.14 \pm 0.13^{+0.14}_{-0.22}$. We also presented evidence for possible variation in the inner DM profile from cluster to cluster, which correlates with the size and mass of the BCG (Figure 5). This suggests a connection between the DM profile in cluster cores and the assembly of stars in the BCG.

The conclusion that the inner DM profile is shallower than that of pure CDM halos is fully consistent with our previous claims (Sand et al. 2002, 2004, 2008; Newman et al. 2009, 2011). We have improved upon these earlier works by collecting improved data for a larger sample of clusters and refining our

¹⁰ The present measurement of β in A383 (Table 1) is slightly shallower but consistent with Newman et al. (2011) due to our new joint constraint on α_{SPS} .

¹¹ Limousin et al. (2008) imposed a tight prior on the BCG stellar mass derived from SPS fits, but did not consider uncertainty from the IMF. Their SPS estimates are quite high: $Y_{*B}^{\text{SPS}} \approx 11$, whereas we find $Y_{*B}^{\text{SPS}} = 3.0$ from fitting the SDSS photometry to this BCG, also using a Chabrier IMF. Adjusting the latter to our preferred $\alpha_{\text{SPS}} = 0.27$ yields $Y_{*B} = 5.7$, which agrees with the estimate $Y_{*B} \approx 6$ by Zitrin et al. (2010) in this cluster.

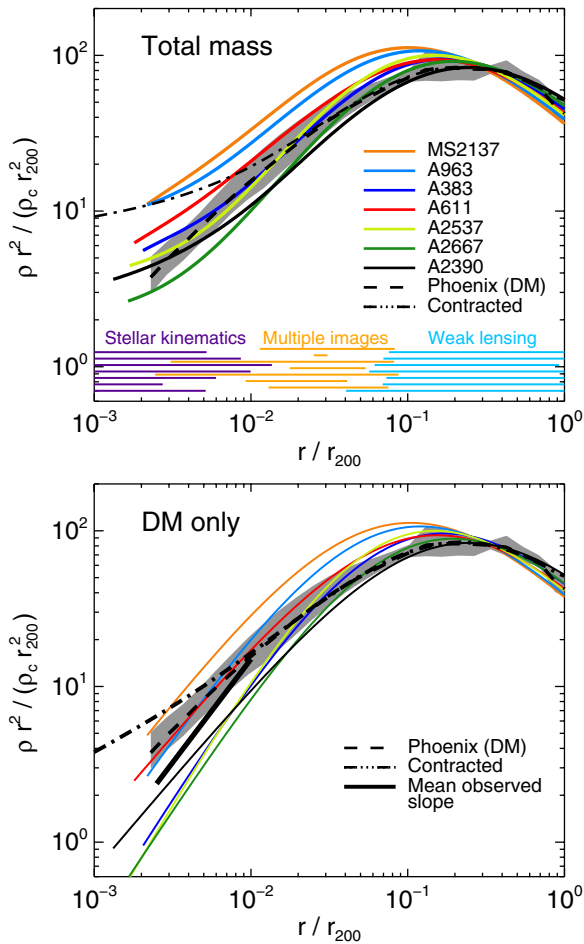


Figure 6. Top: *total* density profiles, including baryons and DM, for our sample are overlaid on CDM-only simulations of massive clusters (Gao et al. 2012b; dashed line, with gray band indicating the full range of the simulated clusters; see Paper I, Section 10). The dot-dashed line shows a system in which an NFW halo with concentration $c_{200} = 4.5$ is altered using the modified adiabatic contraction model of Gnedin et al. (2011). Parameters of $A_0 = 1.5$, $w_0 = 0.85$ were used, with the BCG described by a Jaffe (1983) profile with scale length $r_J/r_{200} = 0.02$ and mass fraction $M_*/M_{200} = 0.002$, which are representative of our sample. The radial extent of the data is indicated at the bottom of the panel. Bottom: as in the top panel, but showing DM only. (The Phoenix simulations thus do not change.) Note that CDM halos match the observed total density profiles better than those of DM alone. The inclusion of halo contraction (dot-dashed line) only exacerbates the difference with the mean observed DM slope (thick black segment).

analysis techniques, as discussed in Section 5.3. A particular advance enabled by this enlarged, improved sample was a joint constraint on the stellar mass-to-light ratio Y_* of the BCGs in our sample, which we found to be elevated by $\langle \log \alpha_{\text{SPS}} \rangle = 0.27 \pm 0.05^{+0.10}_{-0.16}$ dex relative to fits to SPS models that assume a Chabrier IMF. Our measurements are instead consistent with a Salpeter IMF (or any equivalently “heavy” IMF). As reviewed in Section 5.1, this agrees with recent, independent studies of massive, early-type galaxies based on lensing, dynamics, and detailed spectroscopy (Treu et al. 2010; Auger et al. 2010b; Cappellari et al. 2012a, 2012b; van Dokkum & Conroy 2010, 2012; Conroy & van Dokkum 2012). These rapid developments in our understanding of stellar populations promise significant advances in disentangling the distributions of dark and baryonic mass across a range of systems.

Figure 6 compares our measurements to high-resolution CDM cluster simulations from the Phoenix project (Gao et al. 2012b), clearly demonstrating these DM-only simulations are

a better match to the total density profile than that of the DM alone. In assessing the role of baryons on their host halos, much of the focus of the theoretical literature has been on the halo contraction (e.g., Blumenthal et al. 1986; Gnedin et al. 2004, 2011) expected to result from a central dissipative build-up of baryons. The dot-dashed lines in Figure 6 show the effect of applying the modified adiabatic contraction model of Gnedin et al. (2011) to an NFW halo and BCG with parameters typical of our sample and of the Phoenix simulations (see details in caption). As expected, the DM profile steepens (bottom panel), only worsening the disagreement with our observations. It has been argued that this increase in central DM density from adiabatic contraction will boost the gamma-ray flux from DM annihilation in clusters (Ando & Nagai 2012).¹² However, our results suggest that adiabatic contraction is not the main process that sets the density profile and that the net effect on the halo is actually opposite to its predictions. (As discussed in Paper I, this does not necessarily imply that the same theory cannot make valid predictions at the galaxy scale, where the star formation efficiency and assembly history are very different.)

A possible formation scenario is that early, dissipative star formation in the main BCG progenitor creates a steep total density slope in the inner ~ 5 –10 kpc, where stars dominate the mass. This size scale is indeed similar to the observed sizes of very massive galaxies at $z \gtrsim 2.5$ (e.g., Trujillo et al. 2006; van Dokkum et al. 2008; Newman et al. 2012). The subsequent assembly of the extended stellar envelope of the BCG—thought to be dominated by low mass, dry accretion of satellites (e.g., Naab et al. 2009; Laporte et al. 2012)—then mostly replaces the DM already in place with satellite material, roughly maintaining the density.

Controlled simulations have indeed shown that dynamical friction between infalling satellites and the DM halo can heat the cusp and reduce the central DM density (e.g., El-Zant et al. 2001, 2004; Nipoti et al. 2004; Jardel & Sellwood 2009; Cole et al. 2011). This process is dissipationless, since the orbital energy lost by the satellites is transferred to the halo, and thus contrasts with the AC picture, in which the baryons’ energy is radiated away (Lackner & Ostriker 2010). A connection between the assembled stellar mass and the central DM density is naturally expected. Indeed, Nipoti et al. (2004) find an anti-correlation between the amount of stellar mass assembled in the BCG and the inner DM density slope β , similar to our observations (Figure 5; we note that the satellites in their simulations included no DM). Del Popolo (2012) discusses a similar anti-correlation arising in their analytic models for the same physical reason, with higher central baryon fractions corresponding to shallower DM density cusps. The strength of the dynamical friction effect depends on the density of the satellites and their resistance to stripping. Laporte et al. (2012) showed that when a stellar mass–size relation in line with $z \gtrsim 2$ observations is imposed in their simulations (offset by 3–5 times in size from the local relation), the central DM cusp is flattened to $\beta \simeq 0.3$ –0.7, comparable to our observations. It is important to realize that numerical experiments investigating this dynamical effect have generally lacked a fully realistic and consistent treatment of the satellites, so improved simulations are needed. Nonetheless, the current results are promising.

Until the last few years, full hydrodynamical, cosmological cluster simulations that include cooling, star formation, and

¹² In any case, the highly uncertain contribution from subhalos may dominate this signal (e.g., Gao et al. 2012a).

feedback did not produce shallow DM cusps or cores, which probably reflected overcooling effects. Mead et al. (2010) and Martizzi et al. (2012) showed that the inclusion of active galactic nucleus (AGN) feedback greatly improves this situation (see discussion and references in Paper I, Section 10) and may also play a key role in lowering the central DM density. Understanding the impact that gas cooling, dynamical friction from stellar “clumps,” and AGN feedback have on the small-scale DM distribution is an important avenue for future simulations, and the data we have presented provide strong constraints.

In addition to the effect of baryons on the halo, various DM particle scenarios have also been proposed to reduce tension between CDM and observations on small scales, including the “missing satellites” problem and evidence for central DM cores or shallow cusps (for a recent review, see Primack 2009). These include warm sterile neutrinos at the \sim keV scale (e.g., Abazajian et al. 2001; Boyarsky et al. 2009; Macciò et al. 2012; Menci et al. 2012), “fuzzy” CDM composed from an ultralight scalar particle (Hu et al. 2000; Woo & Chiueh 2009), DM produced from early decays (Kaplinghat 2005), and DM that itself decays with a long timescale (Peter et al. 2010), among many other possibilities. The goal is to preserve the large-scale successes of CDM, while allowing for modifications at higher densities where the detailed properties of the DM particle might manifest. A scenario for which halo density profiles have been worked out in detail is a self-interacting DM particle (Spergel & Steinhardt 2000; Yoshida et al. 2000; Davé et al. 2001). Rocha et al. (2012) and Peter et al. (2012) showed that a cross-section $\sigma \sim 0.1 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$ can produce ≈ 20 kpc cores in clusters without violating any current constraints, e.g., from the asphericity of cluster cores or the Bullet Cluster (Randall et al. 2008). Only the dense central regions of the halo are affected, where scattering can occur within a Hubble time.

These ≈ 20 kpc core sizes are intriguingly similar to our observations. On the other hand, they are also very similar to the scale of the baryons, i.e., the size of the BCG. It is unclear why the total density profile should then match the shape expected of collisionless CDM. In these scenarios, the core size arises from the microphysics of the DM particle and presumably should not “know” about the size of the central galaxy (Figure 5), for example. Thus, observations of clusters alone cannot provide unambiguous support for alternative DM theories. Global comparisons across a wide range of mass scales (for instance, a cross-section that also produces correct core sizes and densities in dwarf galaxies) remain an essential test for attempts to explain low central halo densities in terms of the DM particle.

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APPENDIX

In Section 4.2, we described how posterior probability distributions $P(\beta)$ and $P(\log r_{\text{core}})$ are derived for each cluster by

weighting the samples in the Markov chains derived in Paper I. The weights

$$w = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\log \alpha_{\text{SPS}} - \langle \log \alpha_{\text{SPS}} \rangle}{\sigma} \right)^2 \right] \quad (\text{A1})$$

effectively convert a flat prior on $\log \alpha_{\text{SPS}}$ (Paper I, Section 7) to a Gaussian with mean $\langle \log \alpha_{\text{SPS}} \rangle = 0.27$ and a dispersion $\sigma = (\sigma_\alpha^2 + \sigma_{\text{SPS}}^2)^{1/2}$. This dispersion accounts for two sources of error: the uncertainty $\sigma_\alpha = 0.05$ dex in the global systematic offset $\langle \log \alpha_{\text{SPS}} \rangle$ from SPS estimates $\Upsilon_{*V}^{\text{SPS}}$, and the random photometric uncertainty $\sigma_{\text{SPS}} = 0.07$ dex in $\Upsilon_{*V}^{\text{SPS}}$ for each cluster. The first uncertainty is correlated across the entire sample, while the second is not.

Therefore, to obtain constraints on the mean $\langle \beta \rangle$ and $\langle \log r_{\text{core}} \rangle$, the probability distributions derived for each cluster in this manner cannot simply be multiplied, since they are not independent. Instead, we calculate the posterior probability of $\langle \beta \rangle$ as

$$P(\langle \beta \rangle) \propto \int P(\langle \beta \rangle | \log \alpha_{\text{SPS}}) P(\log \alpha_{\text{SPS}}) d\alpha_{\text{SPS}}. \quad (\text{A2})$$

Here, $P(\langle \beta \rangle | \log \alpha_{\text{SPS}})$ is the posterior distribution of $\langle \beta \rangle$ at a fixed value of $\log \alpha_{\text{SPS}}$. It is obtained by multiplying the probability densities $P(\beta | \log \alpha_{\text{SPS}})$ for the seven clusters in our sample, which are each computed with Gaussian weights centered at the fixed value of $\log \alpha_{\text{SPS}}$ and a dispersion σ_{SPS} (i.e., $\sigma = \sigma_{\text{SPS}}$ in Equation (A1); we now account for only the random photometric errors in $\Upsilon_{*V}^{\text{SPS}}$ since $\log \alpha_{\text{SPS}}$ is fixed). $P(\log \alpha_{\text{SPS}})$, which represents our constraint on the common stellar mass scale, is simply a Gaussian with mean $\langle \log \alpha_{\text{SPS}} \rangle = 0.27$ and dispersion $\sigma_\alpha = 0.05$ dex, as derived in Section 3.1 for isotropic orbits.

We estimate the intrinsic scatter in β (Section 4.2) using the posterior probability densities $P(\beta | \log \alpha_{\text{SPS}} = 0.27)$ for each cluster. That is, we evaluate the cluster-to-cluster scatter in β at a fixed value of $\log \alpha_{\text{SPS}}$. All of the above comments apply equally to our study of the cNFW models, simply replacing β by $\log r_{\text{core}}$.

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